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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Poland

SUBJECT

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Miscellaneous Observations in Krakow

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1. [redacted] in the Middle School in Krakow, the peace propaganda by which the students were indoctrinated is very intensive. On May Day 1951, all teachers and students were required to attend a propaganda play, in which Winston Churchill was characterized as an ape and "appropriate" designations given other leading politicians. [redacted]

2. Although all the teachers in the Middle School were outwardly pro-Communist, it was difficult at times for them to talk with the parents of the children. On one occasion, a teacher called a child a "Bolshevik" for some work that he had done at school. The next day the child's mother confronted the teacher and stated that her boy was a good boy and not a Bolshevik. Only after lengthy explanations could the teacher explain that she had complimented the child not criticized him. [redacted] it is also possible to read into the incident the traditional Polish-Russian antagonism, because the teacher was dismissed after this incident. [redacted]

3. In August 1951, the people were still looking with contempt on the attempts to establish a national Catholic Church. Although some priests were cooperating with the State church, the people still believed them to be anti-Communist. However, the people did not have enough confidence to "go to Confession" to these priests if their confession concerned any topic which the regime could use against them. [redacted] all priests are considered a center of resistance to the population. [redacted]

4. [redacted]

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5.

6. The anti-US propaganda was so absurd to the Polish people that it was entirely ineffective. The population often suggested that exiles should be sent to the US to "live in caves" rather than be sent to Siberia. In Polish the words for "peace" and for some weapons sound very similar, and the Polish people would often joke about "peace propaganda" and the munitions that Poland was allegedly making for the USSR. [redacted] comment: It appears that the pun referred to is similar to the English play on words between "peace" and "piece" meaning weapon. Another factor that defeated anti-US propaganda was the fact that [redacted] most [redacted] listened to the VOA when it was not jammed. Anyone who wanted to listen could have access to a radio. [redacted] never heard of anyone imprisoned or fined for listening to VOA.

7.

- 25X1 [redacted] According to the industrial plan for Krakow, a new section called Nowa Huta was to be industrialized. This section is surrounded by the sections Podgaze, Mogila and Batowice, and it is between Krakow and Mydlniki on the road to Zabierzow.

8.

- 25X1 [redacted] Nowhere in Krakow could a transient find a place to live unless he stayed with a friend in a private home. Since nationalization of industry has occurred, there is no need for any Pole to travel- there are no private hotels. There are business hotels, hotels for children, and hotels for members of the Communist Party, but one must have the proper documentation and reason for going to these hotels. All merchant hotels have been taken by the government. It is impossible to present any system for the numbering of houses in Krakow although most of the houses are attached in a row and numbers of corresponding houses on parallel streets are fairly similar.

9.

- 25X1 [redacted] no restriction on electricity, water, or gas. A telephone was extremely difficult to obtain. Often the police placed a stranger in a home to live. This individual was always considered an informer and he usually disturbed the family life. [redacted] Polish medicines were very poor, and US medicines were preferred. [redacted] Censorship of foreign mail was frequent, and practically complete - if a letter was opened, a statement often appeared from the censor that the letter had been censored in the US, or the letter was not properly sealed, or the glue on US envelopes was of extremely low quality.

10.

- 25X1 [redacted] The station for the Security Police (UB) is located on Sienkiewicza opposite number 12. This building was formerly the Gestapo headquarters. [redacted] the UB officers are better paid, have better food, and have their own better stores as compared to the regular police in Krakow. The regular police station is located on Siemiradzkiego in the middle of the block between Lenartowicza and Karmelika. [redacted]
- 25X1 - end
- 25X1 Enclosure (A): Diagram showing the location of the security police station and regular police station in Krakow.

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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Diagram Showing the Location of the Security Police Station
and Regular Police Station in Krakow



Map Employed: Szczegółowy plan
KRAKOWA

Z przyległymi gminami

stan z 1947 roku

Podziałka 1:10,000

a-UB (Security Police)
Hqts.

b. Regular police hqts.

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831.1	55M
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